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Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02339 082110Z

70
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 /015 W
---------- 006396
R 082035Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0645

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USIAC

FOR: ILA/ESTES; SECSTATE FOR CU/ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: ANDEAN COOP - AGRICULTURAL SEMINAR

REF: A. USIA 5151; B. USIA 6600; C. STATE 65858; D. USIA 6683

1. I REALIZE THAT ON THE SURFACE STRASMA "WOULD BE EXCELLENT SPEAKER" FOR OUR SEMINAR; BUT IF YOU HAVE READ EMBASSY CABLES LATELY, YOU MUST BE AWARE THAT AGRICULTURE IS ABOUT THE MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE IN ECUADOR AT THE MOMENT.

2. WE HAVE OBTAINED CO-SPONSORSHIP OF (A) THE NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, HIS PRECEDESSOR HAVING FALLEN BECAUSE HE AROUSED OPPOSITION OF LANDOWNERS, AND (B) THE CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE. BOTH CO-SPONSORS INSIST THAT SEMINAR MUST MAINTAIN HIGH SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL AND NOT STRAY INTO LAND REFORM OR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. THE WILL NOT SPONSOR UNDER ANY OTHER CONDITION. EMBASSY AND USIS FEEL SAME WAY.

3. OF STRASMA'S FIELDS OF EXPERTISE, HIS LECTURE ON MARKETING INTERESTS US. IF HE CAN CONFINE HIMSELF TO MARKETING AND OTHER TOPICS WITH A PRACTICAL ORIENTATION, WITHOUT LAND REFORM OR GENERAL AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, WE WOULD BE GLAD TO SCHEDULE HIM FOR THE SEMINAR.
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4. COULD YOU KINDLY SOUND OUT STRAMSA TO MEE IF HE WOULD LIKE TO APPEAR UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES? LET US KNOW HIS REACTION SSONEST AND WHAT TOPICS HE MIGHT HANDLE.

5. CONCERNING DATES, WE CANNOT SCHEDULE SEMINAR LATER THAN TIME ALREADY SET, JUNE 24-28, FOR BOTH QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL.

6. WHEN WE HAVE YOUR ANSWER TO THIS TELEGRAM, WE CAN TAKE UP QUESTION OF SCHEDULING STRASMA AT ECUADOREAN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER NATIONAL STUDIES, AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL D.
BELL

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Message Attributes

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